

genuinely pleased with many aspects of the Coopers & Lybrand recommendations for redesigning the process. I hope the administration will take those recommendations seriously. For far too long, the naturalization process has been characterized by intolerable backlogs, very poor customer service, and, of course, unfortunate examples of outright fraud and mismanagement.

Unfortunately, just today we also learned the results of a separate review of the current naturalization process. That review was conducted by the Department of Justice and by KPMG Peat Marwick. In a review of roughly 5,500 naturalization files selected at random over a 1-year period, it was determined that 90.8 percent of the files contained at least one significant processing error, and a total of 87.7 percent of the files had insufficient documentation in the file to support a proper naturalization decision.

The bottom line is that we can be confident that naturalization was proper in only 8.6 percent of the 1,049,867 cases naturalized between August 1995 and September 1996. Mr. President, clearly these statistics are alarming and appalling. I don't doubt that most of the cases involved were, in fact, properly naturalized. But because of the system that is currently in place, we not only have enormous backlogs in the naturalization process but we cannot determine on a case-by-case basis whether naturalization decisions have been made correctly.

In my judgment, any redesign of the naturalization process must ensure a 100 percent level of compliance. So, in the coming weeks, I plan to hold hearings at which the Senate Immigration Subcommittee can explore the Coopers & Lybrand proposal—which at this point is simply a blueprint—in more detail and so that we can get to the bottom of the complete breakdown of the process I have described here today.

In particular, we need to examine some open issues in the redesign proposal, such as who would conduct the tests that are given with respect to English proficiency and civics and what those tests should contain. Given the recent indictments in California for fraud in citizenship testing, in which 20 defendants have been indicted for nationwide fraud in this area, we must take a close look at the extent of the fraud in the testing process and we must reform the system to eradicate any future wrongdoing in connection with citizenship testing.

As a proponent of legal immigration and the value of naturalization, I do not come at this in any way trying to undercut the naturalization system. Yet recent information suggests such a complete breakdown that the process has to be redesigned to eradicate the fraud and the mismanagement that has characterized this system.

What we need to do is strike the right balance, Mr. President, so that the people who deserve and have the

right to be naturalized and become citizens have the opportunity to do so in a timely manner, and so that everyone, both the people who are waiting in those lines who ultimately will become naturalized and those who are already citizens, will have confidence that the people who are becoming citizens have met the standards and the criteria which the Congress has established for doing so. That means, Mr. President, close scrutiny of the current system, close scrutiny of the proposed recommendations by Coopers & Lybrand, and action, I believe, ultimately by the INS and Congress to move us in the right direction.

I am very disturbed by the report we received today, but I hope that will form the basis for all of us to work together to find the right solutions.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF DAVID SATCHER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, AND SURGEON GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

The Senate continued with the consideration of the nomination.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am proud today to speak in support of the confirmation of Dr. David Satcher to be our Nation's Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary of Health.

I want to speak about Dr. Satcher's qualifications for these important jobs, but first I want to quickly comment on the circumstances that have led to the delay of our consideration of his nomination. I think the course of events that have taken place is very unfortunate. I think whenever we let certain political views interfere with the public health, we are doing the American people a great disservice. It has been 3 years since we have had a Surgeon General. That has not been good for this country. It has created a vacuum of leadership on public health issues. I hope that once everyone has had a chance to voice his or her opinion on his nomination we can quickly move ahead and fill the longstanding vacancy.

Mr. President, as chairman and as now ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, I have had the pleasure of working very closely with Dr. David Satcher since he has been the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Over the past 4 years, he has directed the CDCP with integrity, compassion, and a commonsense approach. Because of his leadership, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has successfully addressed some of the most pressing public health challenges facing our Nation by promoting health

and preventing disease, injury, and premature death.

Mr. President, let there be no mistake, the position of Surgeon General is an important one. Americans look to our Nation's top medical official for leadership and guidance on a number of critical health care issues. For example, one of our most honored Surgeons General, Dr. C. Everett Koop, used the office's bully pulpit to further public awareness of the dangers of smoking, and he was a courageous advocate for public health measures to address the growing AIDS crisis. Now those are big shoes to fill, but I can think of no one more qualified or capable than Dr. David Satcher.

In 1992, I worked with former CDC Director William Roper to change the name of the CDC from the Centers for Disease Control to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We added the word "prevention" to the name. Now, Dr. Roper has moved on, but under Dr. Satcher's direction the CDCP has truly lived up to its new name.

Since he took the helm, Dr. Satcher has spearheaded a child immunization initiative, upgraded the Nation's ability to detect and respond to emerging infectious diseases, and he has expanded the participation in the agency's breast and cervical cancer screening program.

Dr. Satcher has taken the lead in creating an early warning system to detect and prevent food-borne illnesses and did the bulk of the work on the first-ever Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health, which outlined ways in which all types of Americans can be more physically active. These initiatives have been very successful, and they have made the CDCP renowned worldwide for its leadership on prevention efforts.

As many of you may know—and I will probably repeat a lot what has been said here, but I think it is worth repeating—Dr. Satcher has a distinguished background. President of Meharry Medical College from 1982 until he was named Director of the CDCP in 1993. At Meharry, he gained national recognition as an able administrator, and his leadership has been accorded wide recognition.

In 1986, he was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences for his leadership skills.

In 1996, Dr. Satcher received the prestigious Dr. Nathan B. Davis Award for outstanding public service to advance the public health. He has also received Ebony Magazine's American Black Achievement Award in Business and the Professions in 1994, and the Breslow Award for Excellence in Public Health in 1995.

Most recently, Dr. Satcher has received the James D. Bruce Memorial Award for distinguished contributions in preventative medicine from the American College of Physicians. He has received the John Stearns Award for Lifetime Achievement in Medicine

from the New York Academy of Medicine, and the Surgeon General's Medalion for significant and noteworthy contributions to the health of the Nation.

These awards all testify to the fact that Dr. Satcher is a talented, compassionate doctor, researcher and administrator who, throughout his career, has committed himself to caring for those less fortunate and to focusing on preventative health care. Dr. Satcher's lifelong commitment to improving the health of the American people began not long after he survived a near fatal brush with whooping cough as a child. Because of this experience, he understands how important it is to have a Surgeon General who communicates clearly with the people about health-related issues and policies that can literally save their lives. He has strong and practical positions on ways to improve the public health, and as Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary of Health, he will provide a positive and articulate voice on some of our Nation's most important health issues.

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution stated in an editorial endorsing Dr. Satcher:

He is the right man at the right time for these positions.

I can think of no truer statement, Mr. President. So I look forward to concluding this debate, hopefully, on a positive note. I look forward to seeing Dr. Satcher confirmed as our Nation's Assistant Secretary of Health and Surgeon General. America needs a Surgeon General. We need that leadership, and Dr. Satcher is the best person for that job.

HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION ACT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I, as in morning business, want to digress here just a moment, if I might, to talk a little bit about another issue that is going to be coming up here tomorrow. I understand we are going to be voting on cloture on a bill that has not gone through any committee, hasn't had any hearings. It involves an area of science and medicine which very few, if any, of us in this entire body are qualified to vote on with short notice, without proper hearings and proper input. Yet, it's trying to be rammed through here. I am talking about the bill regarding cloning research.

Now, there has been a lot of, I think, undue, inflammatory kinds of statements and comments made about this cloning research. It seems odd to me that on something that has so much potential to alleviate human suffering and which is also, I will be frank to admit, fraught with perils of ethics and bioethics—it seems odd to me that a bill of that nature would be rushed so soon to the floor of the Senate. It seems to me that this is the kind of bill that ought to go through a lengthy and involved hearing process, to bring in the best minds, ethicists, physicians,

doctors, researchers, those involved in gene therapy, those who have been involved in cloning research in the past, to hear their views on this. And then out of this, perhaps we can develop a more reasoned, logical, bipartisan approach on the issue of cloning research.

So I have to ask, what is this so-called rush? Why bring it out on the floor like this without the proper kind of hearings, because there is a hidden political agenda? Is this to inflame fears among people? Well, I hope not. To take away that apprehension, I think the best thing would be to refer this to committee and have hearings on it. I serve on the Labor, Health and Human Services Committee, and I would assume that committee would be the proper one to have the hearings, at least some of them, plus those on the House side. So I want to speak about it in that context.

Mr. President, each year, too many of our loved ones suffer terribly. They are taken away from us by diseases like cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's. For many years, I have worked hard to expand research into finding cures and preventative measures and improve treatments for the many conditions that rob us of our health. Over the last several years, there have been major breakthroughs in medical research. We need to make sure that our world-class scientists continue to build on this progress, but that we also say to young people who are in college today, maybe even in high school, who are thinking of pursuing research careers, that we welcome their inquisitiveness, we welcome their experimentation, we want there to be no bounds put on their inquiries by a rush to judgment by the Congress of the United States, which is ill-equipped to make such a judgment. I think our actions here send a very chilling message to young people, who want to go into biomedical research, that somehow there is going to be the heavy hand of "Big Brother" Government overlooking their research, telling them you can do this but not that, or you can go no further than that, or you can ask this question, but you can't ask that question. I think this bill that we have, again, pushed before us in this rush, can have that kind of chilling effect.

Now, another area of research that has been ongoing for a long time—this is nothing new—has recently captured public attention. That is the research into cloning, cloning cells. Now, there is a man in Chicago—I don't know him and I never have met him—and his name is Richard Seed. Well, he caused quite a sensation a few weeks ago by saying he intends to clone infertile people within the next 2 years. Well, when I first heard this, I said, who is this guy? I never heard of him and I have been involved in research, medical research for a long time. Well, I found out that, quite frankly, he is a very irresponsible individual. He doesn't have the expertise himself. He

doesn't have the laboratory, the money, or the wherewithal. I think most researchers and policymakers that I know who know of this person say that he is both out of the mainstream and that his plans for cloning are, at the very least, premature.

Now, again, from all that I have read—and now I have seen him on television—I think that Mr. Seed is more interested in getting his name in the paper than actually carrying out any legitimate scientific research. This is the unfortunate part of it. Why should the irresponsible actions of an individual like Mr. Seed lead to irresponsible actions on our part, because that is exactly what we are doing? Is Mr. Seed irresponsible? I believe so, absolutely. As I said, he doesn't have the expertise, the lab, or the wherewithal to even carry out this research. So he is making very irrational, irresponsible, inflammatory statements. But then why should we respond irresponsibly? I think we should respond responsibly and very carefully to an area of scientific research that can hold so much promise to alleviate pain and suffering and premature death all around the world.

Let's not act irresponsibly because one person in America has spoken irresponsibly. S. 1601, the bill we will be having a cloture vote on tomorrow, bans the use of cloning technology called somatic cell nuclear transfer. To create an unfertilized egg cell, even if this egg cell is for research, is totally unrelated to the cloning of a human being. For example, if the cell is grown under special laboratory conditions, it does not become a child, or a baby, but instead becomes specific tissue such as a muscle, nerve, or skin.

Just think of the potential of this kind of technology. I have looked into this a lot over the last several years. Science makes genetically identical tissues and organs for the treatment of a vast array of diseases.

I gave a sort of off-the-cuff set of comments last summer when this issue came up with Dolly, the sheep that was cloned in Scotland. Dr. Wilmut was at our committee. I talked about the need to continue research into cloning of cells. I said it was going to happen in my lifetime. I certainly stand here and hope that it does.

Shortly after that, I was at a restaurant in a small town in Iowa. A person came up to me, a friend of mine. I went over to their booth to see them. There was a woman there whom I had never met, a rather young woman with her husband. I was introduced to them. Just right out of the clear blue she said, "Thank you for what you said about cloning and taking the position you did on cloning." I don't even think it was in the newspaper. It was on television, I think. CNN may have carried that type of thing. But I was curious as to why this young woman, who, if I am not mistaken, lives on a farm, I believe—I can't quite remember that detail. I asked her, "Why are you so interested in this?" She said because she